

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1–122 (cancelled)

Claim 123 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
inserting a needle having a curved portion percutaneously into the body and
through the vaginal wall;
attaching a sling assembly end to an end of the needle subsequent to insertion
through the vaginal wall; and
withdrawing the needle to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under the
urethra.

Claim 124 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes an element
for receiving a distal end of the needle.

Claim 125 (new): The method of claim 123, comprising inserting the needle via the
abdomen.

Claim 126 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the needle comprises a channel for
receiving the sling assembly end.

Claim 127 (new): The method of claim 126, comprising locking the sling assembly end in
the channel.

Claim 128 (new): The method of claim 127, comprising unlocking the sling assembly end
from the channel subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 129 (new): The method of claim 123, comprising detaching the sling assembly end
from the needle end subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 130 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 131 (new): The method of claim 123, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and
a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 132 (new): The method of claim 131, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

Claim 133 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
inserting a needle having a curved portion percutaneously into the body and
through the vaginal wall;
interlockingly attaching a sling assembly end to an end of the needle subsequent
to insertion through the vaginal wall; and
withdrawing the curved needle to pull a portion of the sling assembly through the
vaginal wall to place at least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 134 (new): The method of claim 133, comprising inserting the needle via the
abdomen.

Claim 135 (new): The method of claim 133, comprising detaching the sling assembly end
from the needle subsequent to withdrawing the needle.

Claim 136 (new): The method of claim 133, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 137 (new): The method of claim 133, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and
a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 138 (new): The method of claim 137, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

Claim 139 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
inserting two needles percutaneously into the body and through the vaginal wall;
attaching a first end of a sling assembly to the first needle;
attaching a second end of the sling assembly to the second needle; and
placing at least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 140 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the step of inserting includes the step of
inserting the first needle and then inserting the second needle.

Claim 141 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising inserting the needles via the
abdomen.

Claim 142 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising withdrawing the needles to place at
least a portion of the sling assembly under the urethra.

Claim 143 (new): The method of claim 139, comprising detaching the sling assembly ends
from the needles subsequent to withdrawing the needles from the body.

Claim 144 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 145 (new): The method of claim 139, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 146 (new): The method of claim 145, comprising removing the sling from the pouch.

Claim 147 (new): A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising,
inserting a needle element having a curved portion percutaneously into the body
and through the vaginal wall;
interlockingly connecting a sling assembly with an end of the needle element; and
withdrawing the needle element to place at least a portion of the sling assembly
under the urethra.

Claim 148 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly is locked in a channel located at an end of the needle element.

Claim 149 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly is releasably locked in a channel located at an end of the needle element.

Claim 150 (new): The method of claim 147, comprising detaching the sling assembly from the needle element subsequent to withdrawing the needle element from the body.

Claim 151 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling.

Claim 152 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at an end of the sling assembly.

Claim 153 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at an end of the sling assembly.

Claim 154 (new): The method of claim 147, wherein the sling assembly includes a sling and a pouch for at least partially enclosing the sling.

Claim 155 (new): The method of claim 154, wherein the pouch comprises an opening along its length.

Claim 156 (new): The method of claim 154, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.